

## 4.4 HAZARDS AND HEALTH SAFETY

This section provides an overview of the presence of hazardous materials at the project site and hazardous materials that have been released in the past within the surrounding area. This section also presents impacts from the use of hazardous materials during construction and the related health and safety measures. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment performed for this proposed project (**Appendix D**) served as the basis for this section.

### 4.4.1 SETTING

#### *ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING*

A hazardous material is a substance that, because of physical, chemical, or biological characteristics, quantity, or concentration poses a considerable present or potential hazard to human health or safety or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of, or managed. Hazardous materials refer generally to hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, and biohazardous materials. Hazardous waste is material that is to be abandoned, discarded, or recycled and includes chemical, radioactive, and biohazardous waste (including medical waste). Acutely hazardous material refers to a chemical listed as an Extremely Hazardous Substance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and any supplemental amendments to that list published in 40 CFR Part 355.

The proposed project site is currently vacant and is utilized for grazing. Based on the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the project site (**Appendix D**), there is no known history of agricultural pesticides currently being used or having been used in the past at the site. Existing on-site features include power transmission lines with pole-mounted transformers along Athens Avenue and two underground natural gas transmission lines. The first line is a 4-inch diameter gas line along the proposed extension to Sunset Boulevard. The second line is a 12-inch diameter line that runs roughly perpendicularly to the proposed extension to Sunset Boulevard. These gas lines are shown on **Figure 3-6**. Beyond the presence of the natural gas pipelines, field and document review of the project site did not reveal any indications of hazardous material use, storage, or accidental release.

#### *Existing Local Hazardous Materials Use*

The proposed site is adjacent to the developed portions of the SIA. The SIA and surrounding portions of Placer County have been used for industrial activities since they were initially developed in the early 1960s. Some industries in this area use, store, and/or treat substantial quantities of hazardous materials. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was performed on the proposed project area (**Appendix D**). This Phase I assessment revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the project site and observed no visible conditions that would affect the planned use of the project site. Two locations near the project site were mentioned in the Phase I assessment that are of interest to the proposed project. These are as follows:

*Formica Corporation 3500 Cincinnati Avenue*

Formica operates an above ground tanks containing formaldehyde, isopropanol, butanediol, fuel oil, diesel and resin. Formica is also a large quantity generator of hazardous wastes. There is also wastewater effluent discharged under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Sulfuric acid is added to the effluent as needed for pH adjustment.

*West Coast Cabinets, 3740 Cincinnati Avenue*

West Coast Cabinets is a cabinet manufacturer listed as a hazardous waste generator. Hazardous waste generated from this site is characterized as unspecified organic liquid mixtures.

***Hazardous Material Releases***

A search for any known hazardous material releases in the surrounding area was performed. State and federal lists that document known or suspected locations of hazardous material releases include the following:

- Calsites - California Department of Health Services/California EPA.
- Cortese List - Office of Planning and Research.
- Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) - Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board).
- CERCLIS - US EPA Superfund sites.
- National Priority List (NPL) - US EPA Priority Superfund sites
- Annual Work Plan (AWP) - California EPA.

Some areas of the SIA have contained substandard underground storage tanks, and soil and groundwater contamination has occurred. Based on document review and database searches, there are two hazardous material or waste releases that have occurred within 1 mile of the project site. The first release occurred at the West Coast Cabinets plant. Soil contamination was discovered at the West Coast Cabinet site along Cincinnati Avenue in 1991 as a result of an underground tank removal. The second release occurred at the Formica Plant. The site had a leaking underground storage tank that was removed in 1996. These incidents have since been closed by the agencies and do not pose a significant potential to affect the project site.

***PROPOSED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS USAGE***

Hazardous materials usage and hazardous waste generation at the proposed project site would be limited to the construction phase of the project. The completed roadway would not be a source of hazardous materials under normal operating conditions. Hazardous materials and waste which could occur at the construction site would be limited and would typically include fuel, motor oil and other petroleum

products. In addition, the project will also use and generate materials that, while not meeting the criteria for hazardous materials, could nonetheless be environmentally detrimental if not stored and handled properly. Such materials could include soil stockpiles, soil amendments and asphalt and concrete cutting and washout wastes.

### ***REGULATORY SETTING***

**Table 4.4-1** provides a brief overview of the laws and regulations relating to the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials that would apply to the proposed project. Firms that handle significant quantities of hazardous materials generally employ one or more full-time employees as Environmental Protection or Health and Safety Officers. Such individuals are the primary resource for coordinating environmental protection and health and safety programs. The basic functions of the Environmental Protection or Health and Safety Officer include surveillance, consultation, compliance, and education.

### ***Placer County General Plan***

The Placer County General Plan addresses issues of hazardous materials through the use of goals, policies and implementation measures outlined in the Health and Safety Section of the County General Plan Policy Document. The County maintains a County Hazardous Waste Management Plan and a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan to implement the goal of minimizing risk to humans and the environment due to hazardous materials. The following Placer County goal and policies are relevant to the Proposed Project:

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| <b>Goal 8.G:</b>     | To minimize the risk of loss of life, injury, serious illness, damage to property, and economic and social dislocations resulting from the use, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials and hazardous materials wastes. |
| <b>Policy 8.G.1:</b> | The County shall ensure that the use and disposal of hazardous materials in the county complies with local, state, and federal safety standards.  |
| <b>Policy 8.G.3:</b> | The County shall review all proposed development projects that manufacture, use, or transport materials for compliance with the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan (CHWMP).   |
| <b>Policy 8.G.5:</b> | The County shall strictly regulate the storage of hazardous materials and wastes.   |
| <b>Policy 8.G.6:</b> | The County shall require secondary containment and periodic examination for all storage of toxic materials.   |
| <b>Policy 8.G.7:</b> | The County shall ensure that industrial facilities are constructed and operated in accordance with current safety and environmental protection standards.   |
| <b>Policy 8.G.9:</b> | County shall require that applications for discretionary development projects that will generate hazardous wastes or utilize hazardous materials include detailed information on waste reduction, recycling, and storage.                 |

**TABLE 4.4-1  
HEALTH AND SAFETY LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

<b>Hazardous Materials Transportation</b>	The U.S. Department of Transportation regulates hazardous materials transportation between states. Within California, the state agencies with primary responsibility for enforcing federal and state regulations and for responding to transportation emergencies are the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Transportation. Together, federal and state agencies determine driver-training requirements, load labeling procedures, and container specifications. Although special requirements apply to transporting hazardous materials, requirements for transporting hazardous waste are more stringent, and hazardous waste haulers must be licensed to transport hazardous waste on public roads.
<b>Hazardous Chemical Waste Handling</b>	The California EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous chemical waste. These laws impose "cradle-to-grave" regulatory systems that require generators of hazardous chemical waste to handle it in a manner that protects human health and the environment to the extent possible. Within the SIA, the Placer County Department of Health enforces on-site waste management requirements applicable to hazardous chemical waste generators, such as requirements for secondary containment around stored wastes to prevent environmental contamination from a spill. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control permits and oversees hazardous chemical waste treatment, long-term storage, and disposal facilities.
<b>Occupational Safety</b>	Occupational safety standards exist in federal and state laws to minimize worker safety risks from both physical and chemical hazards in the work place. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration are the agencies responsible for assuring worker safety. Cal/OSHA assumes primary responsibility for developing and enforcing standards for safe workplaces and work practices in California. Among other requirements, Cal/OSHA obligates many businesses to prepare Injury and Illness Prevention Plans and Chemical Hygiene Plans. Cal/OSHA also sets standards for fume hood operations (fume hoods are cabinets connected to overhead exhaust fans that draw air from inside the cabinet and expel it from the building through rooftop stacks).
<b>Soil and Groundwater Contamination</b>	The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and associated Superfund Amendments provide the U.S. EPA with the authority to identify hazardous sites, to require site remediation, and to recover the costs of site remediation from polluters. California has enacted similar laws intended to supplement the federal program. The California EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control is primarily responsible for implementing these laws.
<b>Emergency Response</b>	California has developed an Emergency Response Plan to coordinate emergency services provided by federal, state, and local government and private agencies. Responding to hazardous materials incidents is one part of this plan. The plan is administered by the State Office of Emergency Services, which coordinates the responses of other agencies, including the California EPA, the California Highway Patrol, the Department of Fish and Game, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the local fire department. Placer County fire departments provide first response capabilities, if needed, for hazardous materials emergencies.

SOURCE: Environmental Science Associates, 2000.

**Policy 8.G.10:** The County shall require that any business that handles a hazardous material prepare a plan for emergency response to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material.

**Policy 8.G.13:** The County shall work with local fire protection and other agencies to ensure an adequate countywide response capability to hazardous materials emergencies.

### ***SENSITIVE RECEPTORS***

Some receptors are considered more sensitive than others to hazardous materials exposure. Greater sensitivity stems from conditions that include pre-existing health problems or duration of exposure to pollutants. Schools, hospitals and convalescent homes are considered to be sensitive receptors because children, elderly people and the infirm are more susceptible to hazardous material exposure related health problems than the general public. Residential areas are also sensitive because people usually stay home for extended periods of time.

There are no sensitive receptors within one mile of the proposed project. There are proposals filed with the county that include residential neighborhoods and schools to be located to the south west of the connector road. These plans are for future development and would not be impacted by the temporary activities associated with road construction. The completed roadway would not be a source of hazardous materials under normal operating conditions.

## **4.4.2 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

### ***SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA***

A project would be considered to pose a significant impact if it would:

- Pose public health and safety hazards through release of emissions or risk of upset;
- Not comply with all applicable laws regarding the handling of hazardous materials;
- Involve the use, production, or disposal of materials in a manner that poses a hazard to people, or to animal or plant populations in the area affected;
- Interfere with emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans; or
- Result in an increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees.

### **Impact**

**4.4.1 During construction there will be use and storage of hazardous materials such as fuels, oils, and other materials. If properly used, stored, and disposed of, these materials would not be a hazard to people or the environment. However, if these materials are not properly used, stored, or disposed, impacts such as spills or leaks could affect natural resources such as ground water, surface water, wetlands, and other habitat and/or species. This would be a significant impact.**

During grading and construction, it is anticipated that limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances would be brought onto the site. Various contractors could use temporary bulk aboveground storage tanks as well as storage sheds/trailers for fueling and maintenance purposes. Potential for an accidental release exists during handling and transfer from one container to another. Depending on the relative hazard of the hazardous material, if a spill were to occur of significant quantity, the accidental release could pose both a hazard to construction employees and the environment.

Placer County requires all contractors and developers of construction projects to prepare a hazardous materials business plan to address use, storage, and disposal of specified quantities of hazardous materials.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- 4.4.1a** The proposed project shall ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations, that all contractors transport, store and handle construction-related hazardous materials in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the DOT, Regional Water Board, and Placer County. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to, transporting and storing materials in appropriate and approved containers, maintaining required clearances, and handling materials using the applicable federal, state and/or local regulatory agency protocols. In addition, all precautions required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued NPDES construction activity stormwater permits will be taken to ensure that no hazardous materials enter any nearby waterways.
- 4.4.1b** The proposed project shall ensure through the enforcement of contractual obligations, that all contractors immediately control the source of any leak and immediately contain any spill utilizing appropriate spill containment and countermeasures. If required by Placer County, or any other regulatory agency, contaminated media shall be collected and disposed of at an off-site facility approved to accept such media.

### **Significance after Mitigation**

Less than significant.

### **Impact**

- 4.4.2** Construction activities pose a fire hazard on sites that are covered with seasonal grasses and weeds. This would be a significant impact.

Equipment used during grading and construction activities may create sparks that could ignite dry grasses and weeds on the project sites. During construction, the use of power tools and acetylene torches may also increase the risk of fire hazard. This risk, which is similar to that found at other construction sites, would be considered significant.

### **Mitigation Measures**

- 4.4.2a** During construction, staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other materials that could serve as fire fuel. To the extent feasible, the contractor shall keep these areas clear of combustible materials in order to maintain a firebreak.

**4.4.2b Any construction equipment that normally includes a spark arrester shall be equipped with an arrester in good working order. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles, heavy equipment, and chainsaws.**

**Significance after Mitigation**

Less than significant.